

In the claims: Please change the claims as indicated.

1. (Previously presented) A ~~method for use in communicating protected bits from a sending device to a receiving device~~method, comprising:

a sending device computing error detection bits based on both protected bits to be wirelessly communicated over a protected channel and also other bits to be wirelessly communicated over another channel; ~~the method characterized by: a step (31) in which the sending device computes error detection bits based on both the protected bits and the other bits, and~~

~~a step (32) in which the sending device transmits~~transmitting the error detection bits with the protected bits on the protected channel and ~~transmits~~transmitting the other bits on the other channel.

2. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 1, further ~~characterized by~~comprising:

~~a step (33) in which the receiving device~~ receiving the detection bits and the protected bits on the protected channel and the other bits on the other channel; and
~~detects~~ the receiving device detecting errors based on the protected bits and the other bits using the detection bits.

3. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 2, ~~further comprising a step (34) in which~~wherein bits on a channel are wirelessly communicated in frames, and the method further comprises the receiving device ~~discards~~discarding at least some bits of a frame without adding them to a buffer for soft-combining if an error is detected in the other bits, and ~~asks~~asking the sending device to retransmit the frame,

~~but does not add the discarded bits to a buffer for soft combining.~~

4. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 3, wherein the other bits comprise bits indicating a ~~TFCI~~transport format combination indicator for a data channel, and the bits that are discarded in case of detecting an error are the bits conveyed by the data channel.

5. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the other bits are conveyed by a control channel used to decode a further channel.

6. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 5, wherein the other bits include bits indicating a ~~TFCI~~transport format combination indicator, and the further channel is a traffic channel.

7. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the channel used to convey the other bits and the protected channel are both control channels used to decode a further channel.

8. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 7, wherein the other bits convey a ~~TFCI~~transport format combination indicator, and the protected channel is an outband signaling channel.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 7, wherein the protected channel is time multiplexed with the further channel.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 7, wherein the protected channel is code multiplexed with the further channel.

11. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the protected channel is a traffic channel.
12. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 11, wherein the other bits are conveyed by a control channel used to decode a further channel, and the protected channel is better protected than the further channel.
13. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the error detection bits are computed using a ~~CR~~cyclic redundancy check code.
14. (Original) A computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor in a telecommunication device, ~~with~~wherein said computer program code ~~characterized in that it~~ includes instructions for performing~~the steps of~~ the method of claim 1.
15. (Original) A computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor in a telecommunication device, ~~with~~wherein said computer program code~~characterized in that it~~ includes instructions for performing~~the steps of~~ the method of claim 2.
16. (Previously presented) An ~~apparatus for use by a telecommunications device (20a) in communicating protected bits to a receiving device~~apparatus, comprising:
means for computing error detection bits based on both protected bits to be wirelessly communicated over a protected channel and also other bits to be wirelessly communicated over another channel, ~~the~~ and

~~apparatus characterized by:~~

~~means (21) by which the device (20a) computes error detection bits based on both the protected bits and the other bits, and~~

~~means (22) by which the device (20a) transmits~~for transmitting the error detection bits with the protected bits on the protected channel and ~~transmits~~also for transmitting the other bits on the other channel.

17. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the device ~~(20a) is a UE~~is a user equipment device.

18. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the device ~~(20a)~~ is an access point of a telecommunications network.

19. (Previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the other bits are conveyed by a control channel used to decode a further channel.

20. (Previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 19, wherein the other bits include bits indicating a ~~TFCI~~, transport format combination indicator, and the further channel is a traffic channel.

21. (Previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the channel used to convey the other bits and the protected channel are both control channels used to decode a further channel.

22. (Previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 21, wherein the other bits convey a ~~TFCI~~, transport format combination indicator, and the protected channel is an

outband signaling channel.

23. (Previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 21, wherein the protected channel is time multiplexed with the further channel.

24. (Previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 21, wherein the protected channel is code multiplexed with the further channel.

25. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the protected channel is a traffic channel.

26. (Previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 25, wherein the other bits are conveyed by a control channel used to decode a further channel, and the protected channel is better protected than the further channel.

27. (Previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the error detection bits are computed using a CRCcyclic redundancy check code.

28. (Previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:
~~apparatus for use by a telecommunications device (20b) in~~
means for receiving protected bits from a sending
~~device~~wirelessly communicated over a protected channel and
~~also other bits over another channel, the apparatus for~~
receiving other bits wirelessly transmitted on another
channel; and

~~characterized by:~~

~~— means (25-26) by which the device (20b) receives the~~
~~protected bits and also the other bits; and~~

means ~~(27) by which the device (20b) detects~~for
detecting errors based on the protected bits and also on the
other bits.

29. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 28, wherein the
device~~(20b)~~ is an access point of a telecommunications
network.

30. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 28, wherein the
device ~~(20b) is a UE~~is a user equipment device.

31. (Previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 28,
~~further comprising means (28) by which the device (20b)~~
~~discards~~wherein bits on a channel are wirelessly
communicated in frames, and the apparatus further comprises
means for discarding at least some bits of a frame if an
error is detected in the other bits, and requestsbits
communicated on the other channel, and for discarding the
bits without adding them to a buffer for soft-combining, and
for requesting retransmission of the discarded bits, but
~~does not add the discarded bits to a buffer for soft-~~
~~combining.~~

32. (Previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 31,
wherein the other bits comprise bits indicating a
~~TFCI~~transport format combination indicator for a data
channel, and the bits that are discarded in case of
detecting an error are the bits conveyed by the data
channel.

33. (Original) A system, comprising a first wireless
telecommunications device~~(20a)~~ including an apparatus as in
claim 16, and also a second wireless telecommunications
device~~(20b)~~.

34. (Original) A system, comprising a first wireless telecommunications device—(20a), and further comprising a second wireless telecommunications device—(20b) including an apparatus as in claim 28.

35. (Previously presented) A method, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

using both protected symbols for transmission over a protected channel and unprotected symbols for transmission over an unprotected channel in providing error detection symbols for transmission over said protected channel; and

sending said error detection symbols along with said protected symbols on said protected channel and said unprotected symbols on said unprotected channel to a receiver.

36. (Previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

means for providing error detection symbols for transmission over a protected channel using both protected symbols for transmission over the protected channel and unprotected symbols for transmission over an unprotected channel; and

means for sending said error detection symbols along with said protected symbols on said protected channel and said unprotected symbols on said unprotected channel to a receiver.

37. (New) A method as in claim 35, wherein the other bits convey a transport format combination indicator, and the protected channel is an outband signaling channel.

38. (New) An apparatus as in claim 36, wherein the other

bits convey a transport format combination indicator, and the protected channel is an outband signaling channel.

39. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a cyclic redundancy check calculator, for providing error detection symbols for transmission over a protected channel using both protected symbols for transmission over the protected channel and unprotected symbols for transmission over an unprotected channel; and

a transport channel multiplexer and physical channel mapper, for sending said error detection symbols along with said protected symbols on said protected channel and said unprotected symbols on said unprotected channel to a receiver.

40. (New) An apparatus as in claim 39, wherein the other bits convey a transport format combination indicator, and the protected channel is an outband signaling channel.

41. (New) A method, comprising:

receiving protected bits on a protected channel and other bits on another channel; and

detecting errors based on the protected bits and the other bits.

42. (New) A method as in claim 41, wherein the other bits convey a transport format combination indicator, and the protected channel is an outband signaling channel.

43. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving protected bits on a protected channel and other bits on another channel; and

means for detecting errors based on the protected bits and the other bits.

44. (New) An apparatus as in claim 43, wherein the other bits convey a transport format combination indicator, and the protected channel is an outband signaling channel.

45. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a transport channel multiplexer and physical channel mapper, for receiving protected bits on a protected channel and other bits on another channel; and

a cyclic redundancy check calculator, for detecting errors based on the protected bits and the other bits.

46. (New) An apparatus as in claim 45, wherein the other bits convey a transport format combination indicator, and the protected channel is an outband signaling channel.